

# REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

The Registry of Election Finance met Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at Suite 1614 of Parkway Towers, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee.

Presiding over the meeting was Chairperson William Long. Attending the meeting were board members George Harding, Patricia Heim, Wade Hinton, Darlene McNeece and Lee Anne Murray.

On motion by Heim, seconded by McNeece, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2008 regular board meeting. The motion passed the board unanimously.

## ***Cases Subject to Approval of Civil Penalty Order***

**08-05 Christopher Atkins**, for failure to timely file a 2007 year-end supplemental campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), 14 days late, maximum three hundred fifty dollar (\$350) civil penalty. Mr. Atkins has had a previous matter before the board.

The board voted at its March 12, 2008 meeting to issue Mr. Atkins a show cause notice.

The board deferred action in this matter from the April meeting because Mr. Atkins had not received the show cause notice.

Mr. Atkins personally appeared before the board and explained his failure to timely file the required report.

On motion by Harding, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to assess Mr. Atkins a \$50 civil penalty.

**08-09 Larry Drolsum**, for failure to file a 2007 year-end supplemental campaign financial disclosure report. Class two (2), no report filed, maximum ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) civil penalty. Mr. Drolsum has had previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its April 9, 2008 meeting to issue Mr. Drolsum a show cause notice.

Director Rawlins informed the board that there has been no response to the show cause notice and that the report still has not been filed.

On motion by McNeece, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to assess Mr. Drolsum a \$10,000 civil penalty.

**08-10 Lee Whitaker**, for failure to file a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class two (2), no report filed, maximum ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) civil penalty. Mr. Whitaker has had no previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its April 9, 2008 meeting to issue Mr. Whitaker a show cause notice.

Director Rawlins informed the board that there has been no response to the show cause notice and that the report still has not been filed.

On motion by Murray, seconded by McNeece, the board voted unanimously to assess Mr. Whitaker a \$10,000 civil penalty.

**08-11 John Wolfe**, for failure to file a 2007 4<sup>th</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class two (2), no report filed, maximum ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) civil penalty. Mr. Wolfe has had no previous matters before the board.

The board voted at its April 9, 2008 meeting to issue Mr. Wolfe a show cause notice.

Mr. Wolfe contacted the Registry and requested that the board defer any action in this matter until the next meeting to allow him an opportunity to file the required report and respond to the show cause notice.

Without objection, the board approved delaying any further action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Washington County Republican Executive Committee**, for failure to file a 2007 year-end supplemental campaign financial disclosure report. Class two (2), no report filed, maximum ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) civil penalty. The organization has had a previous matter before the board.

The board voted at its April 9, 2008 meeting to issue the organization a show cause notice.

Director Rawlins requested that the board defer any action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting because the organization had not received the show cause notice.

Without objection, the board approved delaying any further action in this matter until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

### ***Cases Considered for Issuance of Show Cause Notice***

**Buffalo PAC**, for failure to timely file a 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), five days late, maximum one hundred twenty-five dollar (\$125) civil penalty. The organization has had a previous matter before the board.

On motion by Harding, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to issue the organization a show cause notice.

**Brotherhood of Locomotive Eng. and Trainmen PAC Fund**, for failure to timely file a 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), two days late, maximum fifty dollar (\$50) civil penalty. The organization has had no previous matters before the board.

On motion by Heim, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to take no action in this matter.

**Democratic Centerists for Victory**, for failure to timely file a 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), one day late, maximum twenty-five dollar (\$25) civil penalty. The organization has had no previous matters before the board.

On motion by Heim, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to take no action in this matter.

***Farris Mathews Branan Bobango & Hellen PAC***, for failure to timely file a 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), six days late, maximum one hundred fifty dollar (\$150) civil penalty. The organization has had no previous matters before the board.

On motion by Harding, seconded by Heim, the board voted unanimously to issue the organization a show cause notice.

***Madison County Democratic Executive Committee***, for failure to timely file a 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), three days late, maximum seventy-five dollar (\$75) civil penalty. The organization had a previous matter before the board.

On motion by Heim, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to take no action in this matter.

***Tennessee Anesthesiologists PAC***, for failure to timely file a 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), five days late, maximum one hundred twenty-five dollar (\$125) civil penalty. The organization had a previous matter before the board.

On motion by McNeece, seconded by Heim, the board voted unanimously to issue the organization a show cause notice.

***Tennessee Assn. of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors PAC***, for failure to timely file a 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), one day late, maximum twenty-five dollar (\$25) civil penalty. The organization has had no previous matters before the board.

On motion by Heim, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to take no action in this matter.

***Tennessee Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons PAC***, for failure to timely file a 2008 1<sup>st</sup> quarter campaign financial disclosure report. Class one (1), five days late, maximum one hundred twenty-five dollar (\$125) civil penalty. The organization has had no previous matters before the board.

On motion by Heim, seconded by Murray, the board voted unanimously to take no action in this matter.

## ***Audit Review***

### ***Aubrey Givens***

On motion by Hinton, seconded by Heim, the board voted 5 to 0 to approve Mr. Givens' 2006 campaign finance audit with the included findings, with Murray "recusing."

On motion by Heim, seconded by McNeece, the board voted 5 to 0 to issue Mr. Givens a show cause notice for improperly reporting expenditures that were reimbursements, with Murray “recusing.”

### ***Sworn Complaint against Mike Ragsdale***

A sworn complaint was filed with the Registry by Charles E. Bowers against Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale for possible personal use of campaign funds.

The complaint was investigated by the Knox County District Attorney, as required by statute. Information from the investigation was provided to the Registry. An additional sworn complaint has been filed with the Registry by Lewis F. Crosby, III. The complaint was forwarded to the Knox County District Attorney for investigation.

Director Rawlins recommended that the Registry defer any action in this matter until the complaint filed by Mr. Crosby has been investigated by the District Attorney and returned to the Registry.

Without objection, the board agreed with Director Rawlins’ recommendation to delay any action in this matter until the investigation has been completed.

### ***Reported Financial Expenses***

Director Rawlins provided the board members with a list of civil penalties that have been paid year to date.

Director Rawlins presented the expenditure reports for the 2006/2007 fiscal year through March 31, 2008.

### ***Executive Director’s Report***

- Director Rawlins informed the board that HB3980, concerning civil penalties for personal use of campaign funds, passed both the House and Senate but in different versions as a result the bill has not passed.
- Director Rawlins informed the board that a lease has been signed for the Registry’s new office space in Suite 104 in Parkway Towers and that the Registry anticipates moving into the space in August 2008.

### ***Other Business***

Director Rawlins demonstrated the Registry’s updated electronic filing and viewing system.

Long, seconded by McNeece made a motion, to adjourn the meeting until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The motion passed unanimously.